Greta Garbo Signs New Contract with M-G-M

CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

Wol. 26, No. 30 TORONTO 2, CANADA November 17th, 1934

HE'S PEEKING AGAIN!

(not what you're thinking, dearie!)

A cheerfull eyefull! You'll soon know! Leo knows already! JOAN CRAWFORD! CLARK GABLE! ROBERT MONTGOMERY! *All in one picture!* And what a picture is "Forsaking All Others." Directed by W. S. ("*Thin Man*") Van Dyke. Please, oh please, Mr. Showman get up on your marquee and shout to the world: *It's marvelous!*

(over)

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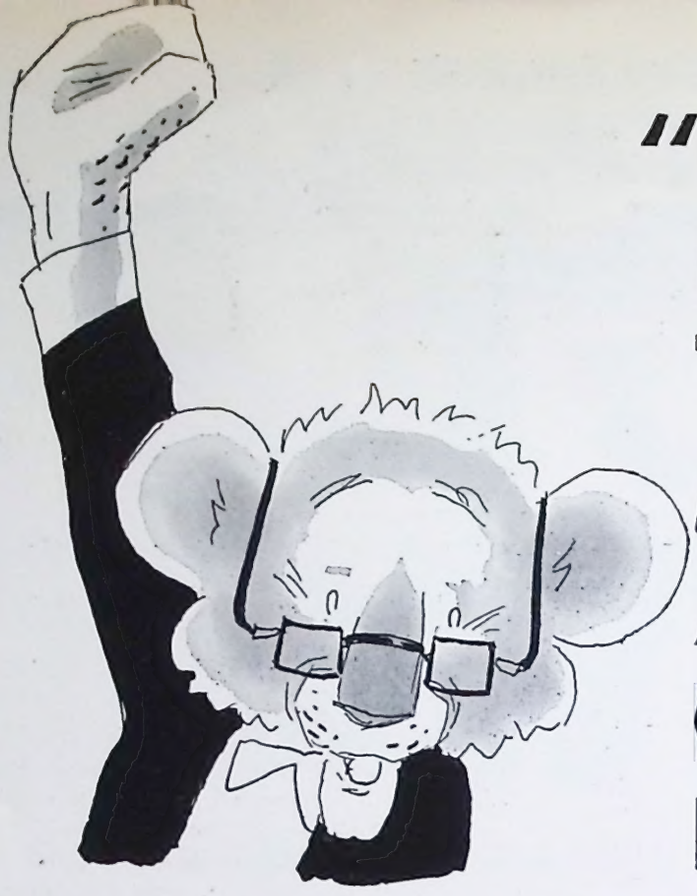


"HELLO! IS MISTER THOMAS OF MICHIGAN AMONG OUR READERS TODAY!"

We got that awfully swell letter you wrote.

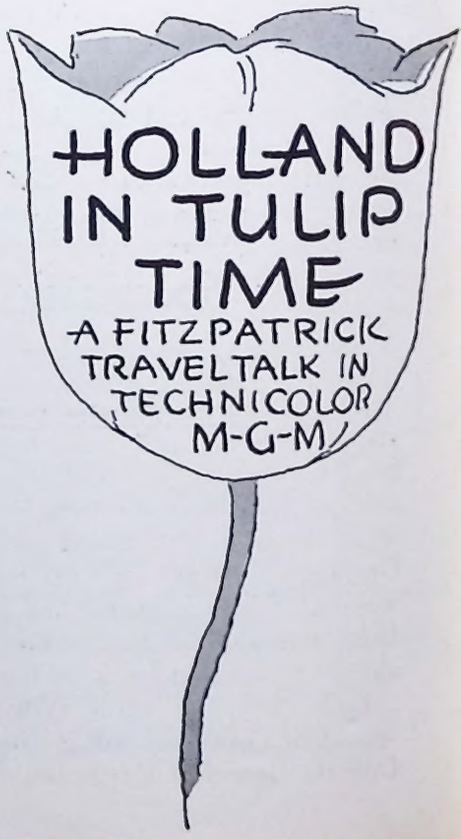
We're taking the liberty of reproducing it.

"Dear M-G-M:

I played your colored short 'HOLLAND IN TULIP TIME' with . . . . . The comments on the short exceeded those on the feature, this in spite of the fact that . . . . . is an outstanding attraction. Your company's shorts have been splendid. Sincerely,

MARTIN THOMAS."

BRAUMART THEATRE COMPANY.
(operating theatres in 4 cities in Michigan.)



Thanks so much, Mr. Thomas! And wait 'till you see the next Fitzpatrick Traveltalks in Technicolor "Zion, the Canyon of Color" and "Ireland, the Emerald Isle." M-G-M's pride.

Twenty-Six New York Theatres Collect $350,000 Weekly

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RAY LEWIS
Editor and Managing Director

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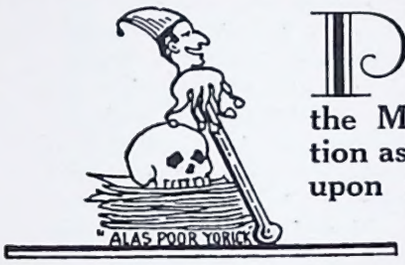
THE PREMIER SAYS WE'RE ALL RIGHT



PREMIER Mitchell Hepburn of Ontario was brought into the Motion Picture situation as a result of an attack upon the Ontario Censor Board in connection with the release of "Vergie Winters", Ann Harding star.

The attack took place at a meeting last Sunday under the auspices of the St. Clare Holy Name Society, at the St. Clare Parish Hall, Toronto, at which Dr. Samuel Atkinson was the speaker; his subject, "The Movies, Where Are They Moving?"

During the evening Father Lanphier of St. Michael's Cathedral said, "I recently previewed a film called 'The Life of Vergie Winters' starring Ann Harding, which was a disgusting subject to be taken for a motion picture. Divorce in Ontario has increased in the last year by more than 90%, and I blame this almost entirely on immoral films. I will co-operate with any steps that the Legion of Decency sees fit".

The idea of the meeting was to form a Legion of Decency, and what this Legion expects to do can be judged by the following statement made by Father Kelly, pastor of St. Clare's Church, "We can prove that we don't want filth by merely putting into force the old Irish expression of 'Boycotting'. I should like to see you all promise that you will go to no movies whatsoever until the whole matter is cleaned up".

The "whatsoever" is significant.

Dr. Atkinson, in the course of his address, stated that he knew of thirty films which had been banned in the U.S. and which were now being released in Canada. It was this speaker who further expressed an opinion that the Ontario method of censoring was entirely wrong. "If a picture has been banned in the U.S., we should not even view it. The film should be turned back to the place of its birth."

Following the same Atkinson form of logic would it not be advisable to eliminate the Ontario Board of Censors entirely and admit for exhibition all pictures which have been passed in the U.S.?

But here is where Premier Hepburn gets into the Motion Picture, the press carries the following statement attributed to the Premier, "Moral uplifters every once in a while have to shout from the housetops to justify their existence. I believe our pictures here are carefully censored, but we are not going to distort them by cutting so that the picture has neither entertainment value nor meaning". The Premier stated that he had viewed the picture referred to, as an appeal board of one; and had passed it. He was in receipt of several letters from women's organizations commending the exhibition of "The Life of Vergie Winters".

"WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS"

BARRIE'S most delightful play, "What Every Woman Knows", has come into its own again, this time through a most delightful presentation of it at Loew's, Toronto. The picture has been made by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer and stars Helen Hayes, whose interpretation of the "woman behind the throne of her man's power" is reminiscent of the delightful work of Maude Adams in the golden days of her stardom.

It is curious that at the very time that this picture so refreshing, so inspirational is being released in Toronto; with Feuchtwanger's immortal story, "Power", at the Uptown, and "Thine is My Heart", the latter purer than snow, at the Tivoli, not forgetting the personal appearance of Hollywood's happiest couple, Bebe Daniels and Ben Lyon, at Shea's, added to which that 100% pure picture, "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch" at the Imperial, that the reform crusade should have been inspired to form the League of Decency.

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

THE Crusaders of the League of Decency, not content with holding their Sunday meeting which receives the importance of editorial space, also writes letters to the press condemning Col. John Cooper for his statement in connection with the matter. A letter signed by an officer of the St. Clare Holy Name Society contains the information that the League of Decency was successful in closing 400 theatres in the U.S. and he hoped it would meet with equal success here in Canada.

Closing theatres should help landlords, mortgage holders, insurance companies, employees at theatres; shops which depend on theatres for to draw the customers, it should help the tone of the town or city, by making it "dead", and forcing the citizens to travel across the border to see a show. It should help the idea of getting money into circulation, the building trade which always is in line for added revenue from the building of theatres, improvement of same, etc. It should help gæsoline stations, it should help the unemployed, by stopping that contribution for free entertainment worth $55,000 to the City of Toronto as an example, according to a statement made by His Worship, Mayor Stewart of Toronto, who gave these figures as Mr. N. L. Nathanson's contribution to the welfare work of the city.

CLOSING the theatres in Canada, the objective of the League of Decency as voiced by an officer, should inspire every theatre owner to become aware of what the League purports to do; and to organize for the purpose of keeping in business.

It is not the first time that Crusaders have organized to forcibly reform people. There is the story of the burning of the witches at Salem. There is the story of the Spanish Inquisition. The beheading of King Charles I; and the reign of the "Roundheads" which made it a criminal offence for a man to kiss his wife on the Sabbath.

"Dyed in the wool Partisan-Politicians" appreciate the value of crusading, that is why one party fanatically attacks another party, depending upon that trait in the make-up of people, which revels in slander, in libel, in bigotry, in primitive hatreds, in kicking someone somewhere, anywhere, for the satisfaction of delivering a kick.

And back of all such bloody crusading, because the principle which inspired the quotation of "He who steals my purse steals trash, but he who robs me of my good name robs me of all that I have", is the idea to destroy the good name; and back of such destruction is some gain, sad to state not always, or generally, or even occasionally a spiritual gain.

Being directly attached to Motion Pictures I personally resent the formation of the League of Decency directed against an enterprise with which I am associated. I will match my virtues, if not my vices with any of the Crusaders of the League of Decency. I say not my vices, because I cannot state as Dr. Atkinson stated, "I have seen the world and I have been a sinner". There is a great deal of the world which I have not yet seen, as for being a sinner, one good enough for a public confession, I am afraid I am not in that class.

I RESENT the League of Decency which looks upon the Motion Picture Industry as an enterprise of "filth and vice", as editor of the Motion Picture Digest, which is a collective resentment. Associated with our Industry are men who are church workers, at the head of various welfare organizations, representative citizens, mayors, aldermen, etc., men who have served overseas, and women who have done "their bit". Why should we be attacked as a body? What about the case now proceeding in the courts and which involves a parish priest in the serious offence of being drunk and killing a child? Would you, or I, condemn the entire Priesthood because of this one priest, or another one accused of having murdered his nephew in Quebec some time ago, or another accused of having murdered a child in Quebec, or another accused in another case of alleged manslaughter?

No one who is mentally responsible, or a responsible citizen, who prides himself on being a true follower of the teachings of Jesus, who is a rational and humane being, would condemn a race, a profession, an enterprise, a government, or an idea, or ideal because someone prostituted, traduced, or trafficked with the idea, or enterprise.

There have been pictures which should never have been produced. But is this not a common failing in life, the things which should not have been?

I DO NOT believe that Jesus should have been crucified so that the sinners should have a scapegoat for their sins, and through whose blood sinners should be washed whiter than snow.

I believe that each of us should be responsible to His Creator for the breaking of the Eternal Laws of Justice, Mercy, Humanity and Right.

I believe that the League of Decency which attacks an entire industry because of a few pictures which are in bad taste, or crudely vulgar, or amusingly sensual,

(Continued on page 5)

Supervisor of Infant's Home, Toronto, Blames Domestic Employers Indirectly, not Motion Pictures, for 1,246 Unwed Mother Cases this Year

Ray Presents

(Continued from page 4)

I believe that such a League is a destructive instrument and serves no good.

I believe that a body of organized churchmen should know better than to say "boycott" all pictures; that they hope to be as successful in Canada in closing theatres as they were in closing 400 theatres in the United States.

I remember as a child in school reading a story in which it was related that a certain boy told the teacher that Johnny was not studying his lesson and the teacher replied, "Where were your eyes when you saw this, were they on your book?"

Dr. Atkinson states he went to see Mae West in "The Belle of the Nineties" and this is how it affected him, "Never have I seen anything so revolting as this picture". Exhibitors who have played the picture might ask Dr. Atkinson why he went to see Mae West and why he did not go to see George Arliss in "The Last Gentleman", or "Power", or "What Every Woman Knows", or "Mrs. Wiggs of the Cabbage Patch", or "Judge Priest", or Vidor's "Bread", or Joe E. Brown in "Six Day Bike Race", or "One Night of Love", or "Ann of Green Gables", or "Happiness Ahead", or "Treasure Island", or "Man of Aran", "The Girl of the Limberlost", or "The Barretts of Wimpole Street", or "The Count of Monte Christo", or "One More River", or Jan Kiepura in "My Song for You", or the Schubert story, "Thine Is My Heart", or the Nova Pilbeam starring picture, "Little Friend", or "Sorrel and Son", or "Jane Eyre", or etc., etc.

I SAW Mae West in "Belle of the Nineties" and nearly fell asleep at what was considered wicked in the "days of the nineties". Mae sings about five songs, they are supposed to be wicked, if these songs are wicked, "come up and see me sometime".

Dr. Atkinson stated that he had been in New York in the Nineties, an "old timer" as you observe, and that he did a great deal of mission work, but, "Life in the Bowery was never like that in Mae West's film". I should say not, that is why we have the song, "The Bowery, the Bowery, they do such things and they say such things, I'll never go there any more".

"The Belle of the Nineties" was a travesty on the drama of that particular time, but then you cannot blame the Crusaders for not appreciating the fact that this picture was a satire, a travesty, and that it was played seriously in order to bring out the travesty angle. Crusaders never have a nose or scent for travesty, their proboscis is generally attuned to sense out filth.

While we are on this subject I note an extract from a paper called "The World Digest" (not The Canadian Moving Picture Digest). The article in question is written by Emmet Culligan and is captioned, "Birth Control, 'The Free Period' And The Church from Controlling Birth Lawfully".

The following is purported to be an excerpt from an article by Dr. John A. Ryan, Catholic University of Washington, published in the Ecclesiastical Review and reprinted and widely circulated by the Paulist press: "Non-Catholics sometime assume that the Church forbids family limitation by any means whatsoever. They seem to think that the main object of the Church in its legislation on this subject is the greatest possible increase in population. Apparently they are unaware that it is not the deliberate control of births, but the positive and unnatural means to this end that falls under the Church's condemnation.

"Against parents who keep their families small by chaste abstemtion from marital intercourse, the Church has not a word to say!"

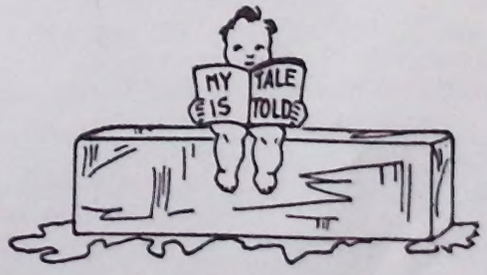
I WOULD like to ask some medical men interested in marital adjustments, etc., whether this "chaste abstemtion" might be an inspiration toward divorce much more powerful in its influence than a million motion pictures?

"The World Digest" continues its reprint of "Controlling Birth Lawfully" as copyrighted by The Courtney Co., Fort Wayne, Ind, 1934, as follows:

"The Very Reverend Canon Valere J. Coucke, Professor of Moral Theology, with his co-author, James J. Walsh, M.D. Ph.D. in their book, "The Sterile Period in Family Life", bearing the Imprimatur of Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, (The Industry is familiar with the name of Cardinal Hayes who led the Film Crusade in the U.S.), states,

"As regards the purpose of marriage, we must assiduously keep in mind that the end of this institution was not that children should or could be born in every family, but that through this institution the conservation of the species should be sufficiently provided for. As long as this preservation is not endangered, it cannot be shown that this or that couple must seek times that are propitious for pregnancy, and that they must positively intend generation. It suffices that they are perfectly faithful to the regulations of nature. Union is permitted at the time of the agenesis (the sterile days in the menstrual cycle) just as it is allowed during pregnancy, or with a woman who is sterile".

Shall we say that the Church should be responsible for such literature and the dissemination of such information to our Flaming Youth? That such information is sexy; and cannot help but be an influence? I leave my readers to conclude whether for good, or for evil; and invite them to read the entire article, which is sold at the newstands all over the American Continent. It speaks of "Ovulation" (pushing the egg out) and tells you that a woman can only conceive eight days out of twenty-eight in a month and why etc., etc. I am sufficiently old-fashioned to believe that The Church should stick to souls and leave the body alone, but perhaps the customers of The Church are more interested in the body than the soul, they are the same customers which Motion Pictures have.



Ray Lewis Addresses First Ave. Baptist Church Club Inspiring Star's Editorial Regarding Delay in Opening Provincial Parliament

Reviews and Previews
By "JAY L."

"WHAT EVERY WOMAN KNOWS" (M-G-M)

METRO has chosen Sir James Barrie's whimsical little play, "What Every Woman Knows" as Helen Hayes' first picture, after her smashing success in "Mary, Queen of Scots" on Broadway. It is a typical Barrie play, full of light humour and light pathos, and it gives Miss Hayes a fine opportunity to show her acting ability, of which she has plenty.

The story revolves around a Scottish family, consisting of the father, two sons and a daughter. The daughter, although verging on the homely side, is as brainy as they make women. Miss Hayes is the daughter. In the return for being given an education, a young Scotsman agrees to marry Miss Hayes, and with her help and encouragement he steadily rises until he becomes an M.P. Then another woman enters the picture and the husband wants to divorce his wife. Miss Hayes, however, with wiles known only to women, wins him back.

The cast is an excellent one. Brian Aherne, the young Englishman who played with Marlene Dietrich in "Song of Songs", is perfect as the young Scot who marries Miss Hayes. Excellent performances are contributed by David Torrence, Donald Crisp and Dudley Diggs as the father and two brothers of Miss Hayes. Dudley Diggs, in particular, does good work. Madge Evans is convincingly beautiful as the "other woman". The picture was directed by Gregory La Cava and should be another Metro box-office hit. Miss Hayes' fans will find plenty to cheer for. It's a Hayes picture.

* * * *

"LITTLE FRIEND" (Gaumont British)

THERE is so much that I want to say about this Gaumont British-Regal picture that I am afraid the editor will not give me the necessary space this week, as I am informed one column this week must do. Therefore I must hold over my preview on "Little Friend", with that extraordinarily fine little actress, Nova Pilbeam as the star. I might however tell you in advance, that here is a British picture that will create the same impression which "The Good Companions" created. It is particularly English and exceedingly well-done.

* * * *

INTERVIEW

YOUR reviewer passed a delightful hour or so in the company of Miss Bebe Daniels and Mr. Ben Lyon. After spending but a short time with these two stars, it is easily understandable why they are billed as "Hollywood's Happiest Couple". The "yes dears" and "no dears" (and they weren't just put on for effect) that floated around the room, were a delight to the ear. Good luck, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Lyon; may the future be even fuller of success for you than has been the past.

* * * *

AN OPEN LETTER OF THANKS

IT has been a source of great gratification to your reviewer to find that on several of the card-questionnaires sent out by The Digest, this page was mentioned as being one of those preferred by the reader. To those exhibitors who were so kind as to commend my reviews I send my most sincere thanks, and to those other exhibitors, "thanks" for refraining from saying that you disliked the page. This page is solely for your benefit, readers, and if you have any comment either commendatory or otherwise to make on the page, I will be only too glad to receive them.

Dear Old London

(Special to The Digest from our London correspondent, Dennison Thornton)

THE startling revelation of an Elstree production manager that huge sums of money are wasted annually in British studios, and that many stars have been paid thousands of pounds for doing nothing, has caused a shiver of excitement throughout the industry here. Except for two or three stable companies the manager estimates that producers are throwing an average of £1,000 weekly down the sink.

Examples of recent wastefulness include the case of 200 extras who were called to a certain studio every day for a week. During that time not a foot of film was "shot" but the extras received £1,200 all the same. Another instance is cited of a Hollywood actress who was imported under contract. She received £4,000 yet returned to Hollywood without even having seen the inside of the studio that had brought her over. Several other American stars have been engaged at various times for pictures that have been shelved at the last minute. In all cases the artists returned to America with juicy cheques but with nothing to show for them.

Other examples of wastefulness include the holding-up of scenes for hours on end while dialogue has been rewritten. Overhead costs during such periods often run to more than £3 a minute. Whole units have been sent abroad on location for scenes that have ultimately been left on the cutting room floor. Lavish sets have been constructed in studios at great cost and never used.

That too little time is spent on preparation work for the average production is given as one reason for the prevalence of this wastefulness. Another reason is contained in the charge that many responsible positions in studios are held by incompetent friends and relatives of the producers.

In a "splash" story the "Daily Herald" blames "ignorance and mismanagement" for the situation and adds that some drastic reorganization will have to be effected to put an end to this appalling wastage as quickly as possible.

Jack Okey To Build

ALEXANDER Korda has engaged Jack Okey, Warner Brothers' art director, to design the new London Films studios which will be erected shortly. The studios will be along the lines of those at Burbank, Calif., and will be easily the biggest and best equipped in Europe. They will extend over an area of 97 acres and will have a three-quarter mile frontage. Woods, farmhouses and a miniature lake will be among the "natural" features surrounding the studio. A luxurious theatre with accomodation for 150 will be used for private previews. Not the least important feature of this theatre will be a well-stocked bar for thirsty throats.

Raymond Massey London Films

LILIAN HARVEY may sign with B.I.P. . . . George O'Brien shooting exteriors around London for his next Fox opus . . . Raymond Massey, Canadian stage star and brother of Vincent Massey, has joined the cast of London Films' "Bosambo" . . . Conrad Veidt's life story is running in the "Sunday Dispatch". Veidt gave it to the paper free . . . "Jew Suss" holding up magnificently at the Tivoli . . . "The Barretts" has entered second week at the Empire . . . "One Night of Love" in its 5th week at Paramount's Carlton.

Babson Officials Confirm Prime Minister's Report to League of Nations
Canada Leads in Recovery